

**Review of *Brucella abortus* surveillance in Great Britain**

Paiba, G.A.<sup>1</sup>, Honeyman, P.C.<sup>1</sup>, Blissitt, M.J.<sup>2</sup>, Brouwer, A.<sup>3</sup>, Roberts, H.C.<sup>1</sup> and Wyllie, S.M.H.<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup>Scottish Government, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup>Welsh Assembly Government, United Kingdom, <sup>4</sup>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom; [giles.paiba@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:giles.paiba@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk)

Bovine brucellosis is a zoonotic disease traditionally caused by an infection with the bacterium *Brucella abortus*. *B. abortus* is now exotic to Great Britain and is notifiable; suspicion of disease must be reported to the Competent Authority so that infection can be controlled and eradicated. GB has been Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF) since 1985. Making the assumption that GB's OBF status that underpins cattle trade within the European Union is to be retained, a review of the surveillance and control activities in GB was conducted to assess whether they were still effective, legislatively compliant, proportionate and value for money. Existing surveillance was targeted at imports from non-OBF countries and GB-resident breeding cattle. A Qualitative Risk Assessment evaluated the risk of re-introducing disease to GB and the potential for disease to spread. The risk of importation has dropped significantly since a review in 2006 as a result of a reducing disease prevalence in countries that export cattle to GB. A total of 12 recommendations were agreed and implemented. These: (1) maintain and raise the awareness of the need to report clinical suspicion; (2) target imported and post-imported cattle on the basis of risk; (3) make no changes to artificial insemination bull monitoring; (4) reduce active surveillance in the national herd by reducing the frequency of bulk milk testing; and (5) define communication routes and consistency of approach in response to abortion notifications and disease suspicion. Implementation of the recommendations was undertaken collaboratively by the governments of England, Scotland and Wales and the veterinary and industry communities in GB. This paper uses a science-based logic to implement a fit-for-purpose, risk-based approach to surveillance for *B. abortus* in GB in order to maintain OBF status.

**Developing a disease prevention strategy in the Caribbean: the importance of assessing animal health related risks at the regional level**

Percedo Abreu, M.I.<sup>1</sup>, Guitian, J.<sup>2</sup>, Hackshaw, K.<sup>3</sup>, Pradel, J.<sup>4</sup>, Gongora, V.<sup>5</sup>, Lefrancois, T.<sup>4</sup> and Caribvet Epidemiology, W.G.<sup>6</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, Mayabeque, Cuba, <sup>2</sup>Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup>Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Richmond Hill, St. Vincent & Grenadines, <sup>4</sup>CIRAD UMR CMAEE, Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, <sup>5</sup>Belize Poultry Association, Cayo District, Belize, <sup>6</sup>CaribVET, members on [www.caribvet.net](http://www.caribvet.net), Guadeloupe; [ellskrh@gmail.com](mailto:ellskrh@gmail.com)

In 2009, the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) conducted a survey among Caribbean national Veterinary Services to assess perceptions towards the use of risk assessment (RA) by animal health services in the region and to identify the main exotic diseases of concern in the region and their means of introduction. The results showed that the introduction of live animals was considered the most likely route of introduction of exotic animal pathogens into the region, followed by the informal introduction of animal products by boat passengers. The use of RA was considered important (in descending order): (1) to avoid or reduce contamination of the human food chain (food safety); (2) to identify vulnerability factors for potential impact of emerging (exotic) and re-emerging diseases in order to improve emergency plans; (3) to prevent the introduction of exotic diseases through live animals for trade; and (4) to identify high-risk areas for introduction of exotic diseases. The diseases considered by the countries/territories with a highest introduction risk were Highly pathogenic avian influenza (16), Foot and mouth disease (10), Rabies (9), Newcastle disease (7) and Classical swine fever (6). The results were used to define a regional strategy for assessing animal health risks that highlights the importance of intra-regional exchanges.